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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
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DRAFT OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its second session, held in New York from 22 August to 2 September 1994, the Preparatory Committee, in its decision 2/3 (see A/49/24/Add.1, annex I) requested its Chairman to submit a draft declaration and the Secretariat a draft programme of action to the Committee for consideration during its third session.

2. These two documents, a draft declaration and a draft programme of action, are presented below.

3. It will be recalled that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/92, the World Summit for Social Development will be convened in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995.

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DRAFT DECLARATION

1. For the first time in history, at the invitation of the United Nations we gather as Heads of State and Government to give social development and human well-being the highest priority both now and into the twenty-first century.

2. We acknowledge that the peoples of the world have shown in different ways an urgent need to address profound social problems specially poverty, unemployment and social exclusion that affect every country. It is our task to address both their underlying causes and their distressing consequences in order to reduce uncertainty and insecurity in the life of people.

3. We acknowledge that our societies must respond more effectively to the material and spiritual needs of individuals, their families and communities in which they live throughout our diverse countries and regions. We must do so as a matter of urgency but also as a matter of sustained and unshakeable commitment through the years ahead.

4. We share the conviction that social development and social justice are crucial preconditions for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and between our nations. In turn, they cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security. This essential interdependence was recognized 50 years ago in the founding Charter of the United Nations and has grown ever stronger.

5. We share also the conviction that, when properly understood, social development and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Equitable social development is a necessary foundation for sustainable economic prosperity. Conversely, broad-based and sustained economic development is a prerequisite for social development and justice.

6. We recognize, therefore, that social development is central to the needs and aspirations of people throughout the world and to the responsibilities of Governments and all sectors of civil society. We affirm that in both economic and social terms, the most productive policies and investments are those which empower people to maximize their capacities, resources and opportunities.

7. We gather here to commit ourselves, our Governments and our nations to enhancing social development throughout the world so that all people may have the rights, resources, and responsibilities which enable them to lead satisfying lives and to contribute to the well-being of their families, their communities and humankind. To support these efforts must be an overriding goal of the international community.

8. We make this solemn commitment on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and with a determination to capture the unique possibilities offered by the end of the Cold War. We wish to launch at this Summit a new era of international cooperation between Governments and between peoples, based on a spirit of partnership that puts the needs and aspirations of people at the centre of our decisions.

9. We gather in a Summit of hope and commitment. We gather with full awareness of the difficulty of the tasks ahead but with a conviction that major progress can be achieved, must be achieved and will be achieved.

10. We commit ourselves, here in Copenhagen, to this Declaration and Programme of Action for enhancing social development throughout the world into the new millennium. We invite all people, in all countries and in all walks of life, to join us in our common cause.

PART I

A. CURRENT SOCIAL SITUATION AND REASONS FOR CONVENING THE SUMMIT

11. We are witnessing unprecedented progress but also unspeakable misery. The expansion of prosperity is being accompanied by an expansion of poverty. This glaring contradiction is unacceptable and dangerous.

12. Globalization - which is a consequence of enhanced communications, greatly increased trade and capital flows and technological developments - opens new opportunities for development and growth of the world economy. Globalization also permits to share experiences, to learn from one another's achievements and difficulties and a cross-fertilization of ideals, values and aspirations. At the same time, the rapid processes of change and adjustment have resulted in inequality and marginalization, both within and amongst countries. These trends have had a particularly sharp impact on developing countries. The challenge is how to manage these processes so as to enhance their benefits and mitigate their negative effects on people.

13. There has been progress in some areas:

(a) The wealth of nations has multiplied sevenfold in the past 50 years and trade has grown even more dramatically;

(b) Life expectancy, literacy and primary education have increased in the majority of countries and average infant mortality in developing countries has been reduced;

(c) Pluralistic and democratic institutions and civil liberties have expanded.

14. Yet we recognize that many people in the world are affected by growing distress:

(a) Within many societies, both in industrialized and developing countries, the gap between rich and poor has increased. Further, the gap between most developing and developed countries has widened, even more so in the case of the least developed countries;

(b) There are serious social problems and problems of transition in countries experiencing fundamental and democratic changes in their political systems;

(c) More than 1 billion people in the world live in abject poverty, and more than half go hungry every day. A large proportion of men and women, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, have very limited or no access to income and resources;

(d) Over 120 million people worldwide are officially unemployed, and many more remain underemployed. Too many young people including those with formal education see little hope of finding productive work;

(e) Far too many people, particularly women, increasingly face vulnerability, isolation, marginalization, violence and insecurity about the future - their own and their children's - as poverty, unemployment and social disintegration seem to become pervasive and mutually reinforcing features of the contemporary world.

15. While these problems are global in character and affect all countries, we clearly acknowledge that the situation of developing countries, and particularly of Africa and least developed countries, is critical and requires special attention. We also acknowledge that countries undertaking fundamental economic, social and political changes require the support of the international community.

16. The goals and objectives of social development require continuous efforts to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress. Particular focus should be given to communicable diseases, organized crime, drug abuse, drug trafficking and related criminality, armed conflict and terrorism. In this context the negative impact, upon development, of the production and trade in arms must be acted upon.

17. We know that poverty, lack of productive employment and social disintegration represent a waste of human resources and ineffectiveness in the functioning of markets, societal institutions and processes. They are an offence to human dignity. We can only continue to hold the trust of the people of the world if we make their needs our priority.

18. Our challenge is to establish a people-centred framework for social development to guide us now and in the future, to build a culture of cooperation and partnership and to respond to the immediate needs of those who are most affected by human distress. We are determined to meet this challenge and promote social development throughout the world.

B. PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

19. We, Heads of State and Government, are committed to a political, ethical and spiritual vision for social development based on human dignity, equality, respect, mutual responsibility and cooperation. Accordingly, we will give the highest priority in national, regional and international policies and actions to the promotion of social progress and the betterment of the human condition.

20. To this end we shall create a framework for action to:

(a) Place people at the centre of development and the economy at the service of human needs;

(b) Fulfil our responsibility for present and future generations, respecting intergenerational equity and protecting the integrity and sustainable use of our environment;

(c) Recognize that social development is a national responsibility, the full success of which is enhanced through the support of international cooperation;

(d) Integrate economic and social policies so that they become mutually supportive, and acknowledge the interdependence of public and private spheres of activity;

(e) Recognize that sound broadly-based economic policies are a necessary foundation to achieve sustained social development;

(f) Promote democracy, human dignity, social justice and solidarity at the national and international levels; ensure tolerance, non-violence and pluralism and non-discrimination in full respect of diversity within and among societies;

(g) Promote a more just distribution of income and access to resources through equity and equality of opportunity at all levels;

(h) Recognize the family as the basic unit of society and acknowledge that it plays a key role in social development and as such should be strengthened. In its various forms, the family is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support in different cultural, political and social systems;

(i) Promote and protect universally recognized human rights, including the right to development; promote the effective exercise of rights and the discharge of responsibilities at all levels of society; promote equity and equality between women and men; promote the strengthening of civil society;

(j) Support progress and security for people and communities whereby every member of our global society is enabled to satisfy basic human needs and to realize their personal dignity, safety and creativity;

(k) Underline the importance of good governance and accountability in all public and private, national and international institutions;

(l) Recognize that empowering people to strengthen their own capacities is a main objective of development and its principal resource. Empowerment requires their full participation in the formulation and implementation of decisions determining the functioning and well-being of our societies.

21. We acknowledge the primary responsibility of Governments to attain these goals. We also acknowledge that they cannot be achieved by Governments alone. The international community, the United Nations and all sectors of civil society need to contribute their own share of efforts and resources to narrow disparities within and among countries in a global effort to reduce social tensions, and to create greater stability and security. We invite everyone to express their personal commitment to enhancing the human condition through concrete actions in their own fields of activities and through assuming specific civic responsibilities.

PART II

COMMITMENTS

22. **On the basis of our common vision, which aims at social justice, harmony and equity within and among countries, in full respect for national sovereignty and policy objectives, development priorities and religious and cultural diversity, we launch a global drive for social progress and development embodied in the following commitments:**

Commitment 1

We commit ourselves to create an enabling economic, political and legal environment conducive to social development, at all levels.

To this end, at the national level, we shall:

(a) Provide a stable legal framework, that includes and promotes equity, equality of opportunity for all women and men, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, elimination of de jure and de facto discrimination, and promotion of representative organizations of civil society;

(b) Reinforce the means and capacities for people to participate fully in the formulation and implementation of social and economic policies and programmes through decentralization and strengthening of the abilities and opportunities of civil society and local communities to develop their own organizations, resources and activities;

(c) Promote dynamic, open, competitive markets together with expanded and equitable access to markets by all people, particularly the poorest and most disadvantaged.

At the international level, we shall:

(d) Promote international cooperation as an integral component of overall social development strategies;

(e) Formulate and coordinate macroeconomic policies to facilitate sustainable development and reduced protectionism in the world economy, enhanced financial stability and access of developing countries to markets, productive investments and technologies, with due consideration for the needs of countries with economies in transition;

(f) Support, particularly through technical and financial cooperation, the efforts of developing countries to achieve rapid, broadly-based sustainable development. Particular consideration should be given to the special needs of small island developing countries and the least developed countries;

(g) Ensure that universally recognized human rights, including the right to development as a basic and fundamental right, are respected and implemented.

Commitment 2

We commit ourselves to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as a moral, political and economic imperative of humankind.

To this end, at the national level, we shall:

(a) Formulate and strengthen national strategies to substantially reduce overall poverty and establish specific time-bound commitments to eradicate extreme poverty;

(b) Focus our efforts and policies to address the root causes of poverty and provide for the basic needs of all. This includes the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, and the provision of primary health-care and reproductive health/family planning, safe drinking water and basic sanitation, universal primary education, and adequate shelter; and give special priority to the needs of women and children who bear the greatest burdens of poverty;

(c) Ensure that people living in poverty have access to land, credit, information and other productive resources, and benefit from a policy and regulatory environment that enhances their overall capacities and empowers them to benefit from expanding employment and economic opportunities;

(d) Develop and implement policies to progressively ensure that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, child rearing, disability and old age;

(e) Review national budgets to orient them towards meeting basic needs and reducing inequalities.

At the international level, we shall:

(f) Ensure that international institutions, particularly the financial institutions, assist developing countries and all countries in need in their efforts towards the achievement of our overall goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social protection.

Commitment 3

We commit ourselves to enabling all people to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work, and to maintain the goal of full employment.

To this end, at the national level, we shall:

(a) Put the creation of adequately remunerated employment and the reduction of unemployment at the centre of the strategies and policies of Governments in full respect for workers' rights and with the participation of employers and trade unions; and give special priority to the problems of structural, long-term unemployment and youth unemployment;

(b) Develop policies to expand work opportunities and productivity in both rural and urban sectors by investing substantially in the development of human resources, by promoting technologies that generate productive employment, and by encouraging self-employment and small enterprise development;

(c) Ensure that workers and employers have the training needed to adapt to changing economic conditions, technologies and labour markets;

(d) Explore innovative options for employment creation and the fair distribution of work, and seek new approaches to providing income and purchasing power;

(e) Pursue the goal of ensuring quality jobs, with full respect for relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

At the international level, we shall:

(f) Ensure that migrant workers benefit from the protections provided by all relevant national and international instruments.

Commitment 4

We commit ourselves to promoting social integration and participation of all people by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just.

To this end, at the national level, we shall:

(a) Promote basic values of respect for pluralism and diversity, tolerance and responsibility, non-violence and solidarity, by encouraging educational systems and communication media to raise people's understanding and awareness of all aspects of social integration;

(b) Ensure the protection and full integration of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and individuals, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities;

(c) Adopt specific measures to enhance respect for cultural diversity and for the human rights and needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants and migrant workers;

(d) Recognize and respect the identity, culture and interests of indigenous people and support their aspirations to be self-sufficient and participate fully in the social, economic and political life of their country;

(e) Strengthen institutions which enhance social integration, recognizing the central role of the family.

At the international level, we shall:

(f) Encourage the ratification and full implementation of all international instruments relevant to the elimination of discrimination and the protection of human rights.

Commitment 5

We commit ourselves to achieving full equity and equality between women and men and to recognizing and enhancing the participation of women in social progress and development.

To this end, at the national level, we shall:

(a) Promote changes in attitudes, policies and practices in order to eliminate all obstacles to full gender equity and equality; and promote full participation of urban and rural women in social, economic and political life, including in the formulation and implementation of public policies;

(b) Establish policies, objectives and measurable goals to enhance gender balance in decision-making processes at all levels and broaden women's economic opportunities and support the empowerment of women;

(c) Take effective measures to eliminate all kinds of exploitation, abuse and violence against women, with particular attention to women refugees and women in situations of armed conflict.

At the international level, we shall:

(d) Encourage the ratification, removal of reservations, and implementation of all provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant instruments, and implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

Commitment 6

We commit ourselves to promoting the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries.

To this end, we shall:

(a) Support economic reforms and commodity diversification efforts of African countries through technical cooperation, trade and financial assistance;

(b) Find a realistic, comprehensive and sustainable solution to the external debt problem by taking urgent action and measures, inter alia, the cancellation of bilateral debt in the framework of the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and, no later than 1996, the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

(c) Ensure the implementation of the strategies and measures for the development of Africa decided by the international community and support the reform efforts, development strategies and programmes decided by the African countries and the least developed countries;

(d) Increase official development assistance, both in total and for social programmes, without reducing the resources allocated to other sectors.

Commitment 7

We commit ourselves to ensuring that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals of eradicating poverty, generating productive employment and enhancing social integration.

To this end, at the national level, we shall:

(a) Protect basic social programmes and expenditures, in particular those affecting the weakest and most vulnerable segments of society, from across-the-board budget reductions, while eliminating inefficient spending and increasing the quality of social expenditures;

(b) Review, on a country-by-country basis, the impact of structural adjustment programmes on social development, by means of social-impact assessments and other relevant methods, and develop policies to reduce their negative effects and improve their positive impact;

(c) Reinforce the social development objectives of all adjustment policies and programmes, including those resulting from economic transition, globalization and rapid change, through policies designed to promote equitable access to income and resources.

At the international level, we shall:

(d) Request that the multilateral development banks and other donors complement adjustment lending with targeted social development investment lending;

(e) Secure the support and cooperation of regional and international organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, in implementing these goals and in further integrating social development goals into their policies, programmes and operations.

Commitment 8

We commit ourselves to increase significantly and utilize more efficiently the resources assigned to social development in order to achieve the goals of the Summit through national action and international cooperation.

To this end, at the national level, we shall:

(a) Develop economic policies to mobilize domestic savings and attract external resources for productive investment and seek innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for social programmes while ensuring their effective utilization;

(b) Implement macroeconomic and structural policies to ensure stable and sustainable growth to support social development;

(c) Increase access to credit for small and micro-enterprises, including those in the informal sector, with particular emphasis on the disadvantaged sectors of society;

(d) Ensure that taxation systems are fair and economically efficient, based on larger contributions from those people and business enterprises which have a greater capacity to pay, and ensure effective collection of tax liabilities;

(e) Undertake reductions in military expenditures and investments for arms production so as to allow allocation of additional funds for social and economic development.

At the international level, we shall:

(f) Mobilize new and additional financial resources from all available funding sources and mechanisms including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, including on concessional and grant terms;

(g) Increase the flow of international finance, technology and human skill in order to transfer sufficient and adequate resources for development towards the developing and transition countries;

(h) Strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for overall official development assistance as soon as possible, and increase the share of funding for social development programmes, commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals of this Declaration and its Programme of Action;

(i) Ensure urgent implementation of existing debt-relief agreements and negotiate, at an early date, further initiatives and innovative measures to reduce and ultimately eliminate bilateral debts of severely indebted countries at an early date; and consider means to give a permanent solution to the growing difficulties of servicing multilateral debt;

(j) Implement the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations as scheduled, including the complementary provisions specified in the Marrakesh agreement, in recognition of the fact that broadly-based growth in incomes, employment and trade are mutually reinforcing;

(k) Monitor the impact of trade liberalization on progress made in developing countries to meet basic human needs, giving particular attention to new initiatives to expand their access to international markets;

(l) Give attention to the needs of the countries with economies in transition with respect to international cooperation and financial assistance;

(m) Increase financing for operational activities of the United Nations and specialized agencies in order to fulfil their responsibilities in the implementation of the agreements of the World Summit for Social Development.

Commitment 9

We commit ourselves to a strengthened framework for international cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.

To this end we shall:

At the national level:

(a) Adopt the appropriate measures and mechanisms in order to implement and monitor the agreements of the World Summit for Social Development, with the assistance upon request, of the agencies, programmes and regional commissions of the United Nations system, with broad participation of all sectors of civil society.

At the regional level:

(b) The regional commissions, in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, should convene, on a biannual basis, a meeting at the level of Ministers of Social Affairs to evaluate progress made towards fulfilling the agreements of the Summit, exchange views on their respective experiences and adopt the appropriate measures. The regional commissions should report to the Economic and Social Council on their outcome.

At the international level:

(c) Instruct our representatives to the institutions of the United Nations system, international development agencies and multilateral development banks to ensure that these institutions take appropriate and coordinated measures for continuous and sustained progress in attaining the goals and commitments agreed to by the Summit;

(d) The Economic and Social Council should assess, on the basis of the reports by the regional commissions, progress made by the international community towards implementing the agreements of the World Summit for Social Development and should report to the General Assembly accordingly;

(e) Schedule for the year 2005 a second World Summit for Social Development to review progress to date in the implementing of the first Summit's agreements and to agree upon further initiatives, as necessary.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

1. This Programme of Action outlines policies and measures to implement the principles and fulfil the commitments enunciated in the Declaration adopted by the World Summit for Social Development.

2. Actions are recommended to create an environment favourable to social development, to eradicate poverty, to enhance productive employment and reduce unemployment, and to foster social integration. All the recommended actions are linked, either in the requirements for their design, including the participation of all concerned, or in their consequences for the various facets of the human condition. Policies to eradicate poverty and reduce disparities require the creation of employment opportunities and would be incomplete and ineffective without measures to eliminate discrimination and promote harmonious social relationships among groups and nations. The well-being of people engaged in gainful employment also requires the exercise of freedom and basic human rights, the provision of good education and other basic public services, and the development of convivial relations within communities. Social integration, or the capacity of people to live together in full respect for the dignity of each individual and the common good, encompasses all aspects of social development and all policies. It requires the protection of the weakest, as well as the possibility to differ and to create and innovate. It calls for a sound economic environment as well as for cultures based on freedom and responsibility.

3. Many of the issues mentioned in this Programme have been addressed in greater detail by previous world conferences concerned with questions such as the status of women, the well-being of children, population, health, education and sustainable development. The Programme was elaborated against the background of, and taking into account the commitments and recommendations of these other conferences, and is also based on the experience of many countries in promoting social objectives in the context of their particular conditions. The special importance of this Programme of Action lies in its integrated approach, its attempt to combine many different actions for poverty eradication, employment creation and social integration in coherent national and international strategies for social development. Each country, in implementing the Programme of Action, will place emphasis on different elements and take action in accordance with its capacity and specific needs.

I. AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BASIS FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

4. Social development is inseparable from the economic, political, ecological and cultural environment in which it takes place. It cannot be pursued as a sectoral initiative. Social development is also clearly linked to the development of peace, stability and security, both nationally and internationally. To promote social development requires a reorientation of values, objectives and priorities, in order to strengthen existing institutions and policies. Human dignity, equity and social justice must be fundamental

values of all societies. The pursuit of these values provides the basic legitimacy of all institutions and all exercise of authority.

5. The economies and societies of the world are becoming increasingly interdependent. Trade and capital flows, migrations, scientific and technological innovations, communications and cultural exchanges, are shaping a global community. The same global community is threatened by environmental degradation, epidemics, various forms of intolerance, violence and criminality and the risk of losing the richness of cultural diversity. Governments increasingly recognize that their responses to changing circumstances and their desires to achieve sustainable development and social progress will require increased solidarity, expressed through appropriate multilateral programmes and strengthened international cooperation. Such cooperation is particularly crucial to ensure that countries in need of assistance, such as those in Africa and the least developed countries, can benefit from the process of globalization.

6. Economic activities, through which individuals express their initiative and creativity and which enhance the wealth of communities, are the fundamental basis for social progress. But social progress will not be realized simply through the free interplay of market forces. Public policies are necessary to maintain social stability and to create a national and international economic environment that promotes growth with equity, responsibility and involvement.

7. Social development is about relations among people. It requires democratic institutions, respect for human rights and for the rule of law, and an active involvement of the civil society. Empowerment and participation are essential for democracy and social development. All members of society should have the right and responsibility to take an active part in the affairs of the community in which they live. Gender equity and equality and the full participation of women in all economic, social and political activities is essential. The obstacles that have limited the access of women to policy-making, education, and productive employment must be eliminated.

8. Against this background, we will strive to create an enabling environment with the following features:

- broadly-based patterns of sustainable growth;
- a more even distribution of the benefits of growth among social groups and countries;
- an interplay of market forces conducive to social development;
- public policies that seek to overcome socially divisive disparities;
- a supportive and stable political framework and the protection of human rights;
- political and social processes that avoid exclusion while respecting pluralism and diversity;

- a strengthened role for the community and civil society;
- greater access to knowledge, technology, education and information;
- increased solidarity and cooperation at all levels.

ACTIONS

A. A favourable national and international economic environment

9. *The promotion of mutually reinforcing growth in trade employment and incomes as a basis for social development requires the following actions at the national and international level:*

(a) Implementing macroeconomic policies which encourage economic development that is sustainable and equitable, generates jobs and reduces poverty and exclusion;

(b) Promoting enterprise and productive investment and equitable access to open and dynamic markets and technologies for all people and countries, particularly the poorest and most disadvantaged;

(c) Implementing the Uruguay Round as scheduled, including the complementary provisions specified in the Marrakesh agreement, and taking further action to remove barriers that disadvantage developing countries;

(d) Coordinating national and international actions to reduce undue volatility in exchange rates and interest rates;

(e) Strengthening the structures, processes and resources available to ensure broad-based consideration and coordination of economic policy, with special emphasis on the linkages with social development;

(f) Ensuring that, in accordance with Agenda 21, economic development respects the need to protect the environment and the interests of future generations.

10. *To ensure that the benefits of global growth are more evenly distributed among countries the following actions are required at the international level:*

(a) Continuing efforts to reduce and eliminate the debt burden of developing countries, reduce trade barriers, improve the openness of the international trading system, and promote access for all countries to markets, productive investments and technologies;

(b) Expanding and improving technical and financial assistance to developing countries to promote sustainable development and overcome hindrances to participation in the world economy;

(c) Elaborating policies to enable developing countries to take advantage of expanded international trading opportunities in the context of the

implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements; and assisting countries, particularly in Africa, which are not currently in a position to benefit from the liberalization of the world economy;

(d) Supporting the efforts of developing countries, particularly those heavily dependent on commodity exports, to diversify their economies.

11. *Within the framework of support to developing countries, giving priority to the needs of Africa and the least developed countries requires the following action at the international level:*

(a) Supporting economic reforms and commodity diversification efforts through technical cooperation, trade and financial assistance;

(b) Achieving a realistic, comprehensive and sustainable solution to the external debt problem by taking urgent action and measures, inter alia, the cancellation of bilateral debt in the framework of the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and no later than 1996;

(c) Supporting the development of strategies adopted by these countries and ensuring the implementation of the measures for their development agreed by the international community;

(d) Increasing official development assistance, both in total and for social programmes, without reducing the resources allocated to other sectors.

12. *Making economic growth and the interplay of market forces more conducive to social development requires the following actions at the national and international level:*

(a) Implementing measures to open market opportunities for all, including the poor and disadvantaged, and to encourage individuals and communities to take economic initiatives, innovate and invest in socially useful activities;

(b) Regulating markets to the extent necessary for their proper functioning and to promote economic stability and long-term investment, fair competition and ethical conduct, and integrated economic and social development;

(c) Establishing an open market policy that reduces barriers to entry of new suppliers, promotes transparency of markets through better information and widens the choices available to consumers;

(d) Promoting greater access on reasonable terms to technology and technical assistance, especially for small enterprises and for developing countries;

(e) Adopting and implementing long-term strategies to ensure substantial, well-directed public and private investment in the construction and renewal of basic infrastructure, especially in ways which will benefit people in poverty and generate employment;

(f) Ensuring substantial public and private investment in human resource development, especially for people who are in poverty or suffering social exclusion;

(g) Supporting institutions, programmes and systems to disseminate practical information to promote social progress.

13. *Ensuring that fiscal systems and other public policies do not generate socially divisive disparities requires the following actions at the national and international level:*

(a) Enacting rules and regulations and creating a moral and ethical climate that prevents all forms of economic corruption and exploitation of individuals and groups;

(b) Promoting fairness and ethical responsibility in business activities through measures such as the development of codes of conduct and encouraging greater interaction between government, business and civil society;

(c) Ensuring that taxation systems promote savings rather than conspicuous and unsustainable consumption, and medium- and long-term investment in productive activities rather than short-term speculation, especially in finance and real estate markets;

(d) Reducing inefficiencies and inequities arising from accumulation of wealth by speculative or windfall gains;

(e) Re-examining the distribution of subsidies, inter alia, between industry and agriculture, urban and rural areas, private and public consumption, and ensuring that subsidy systems benefit people in poverty and reduce disparities;

(f) Strengthening international tax agreements, removing provisions that may discriminate against developing countries and countries in transition, and improving the efficiency and fairness of tax collection;

(g) Assisting developing countries and countries in transition to establish efficient and fair tax collection systems.

B. An enabling political and legal environment

14. *To ensure that the political framework supports the objectives of social development the following actions are required at the national level:*

(a) Ensuring that institutions and agencies responsible for the design and implementation of social policies have the status and resources necessary to give high priority to social development in policy-making;

(b) Ensuring that adequate rules and processes exist to combat political corruption and to create full transparency and accountability for all public and

private institutions, sustained through education and the development of attitudes and values promoting responsibility and solidarity;

(c) Eliminating de jure discrimination, while developing educational programmes and media campaigns aimed at eliminating de facto discrimination;

(d) Encouraging decentralization of government institutions and services to a level which, compatible with the overall responsibilities and objectives of national governments, reflects better local needs and facilitates local participation;

(e) Establishing conditions for the social partners to organize and act freely with guaranteed freedom of association and the right to engage in collective bargaining;

(f) Making political and social processes inclusive of all members of society and respectful of political pluralism and cultural diversity;

(g) Enhancing opportunities for women to participate in decisions which determine policies at all levels and in the economic and political mechanisms through which policies are formulated and implemented.

15. *Social development requires that the rights of individuals be promoted and protected through the following actions at the national level:*

(a) Ratifying existing international rights conventions that have not been ratified; and implementing conventions and covenants that have been ratified;

(b) Promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national level, including through education of public officials and provision of effective agencies for monitoring and enforcement;

(c) Protecting and promoting women's human rights and ensuring that all obstacles to full equity and equality between women and men are removed in all private and public institutions of society;

(d) Providing all people with the benefit of an independent, fair and effective system of justice and ensuring reasonable access for all to well-informed and objective sources of advice about legal rights and obligations;

(e) Strengthening the ability of civil society and the community to support social development.

16. *An open political and economic system requires access by all to knowledge, education and information by:*

(a) Ensuring that the media and other information sources reflect and respect the diversity of cultures and interests;

(b) Enabling and encouraging access by all to a wide range of information and opinion on matters of general interest through the mass media and other means, including independent non-profit outlets;

(c) Improving the reliability, utility and public availability of statistical and other information material on social development, including on gender issues, at the national, regional and international levels.

17. *International support for national efforts to promote an enabling political and legal environment requires the following actions:*

(a) Making full use of the capacity of the United Nations and all other relevant international organizations to prevent and resolve social tensions and armed conflicts;

(b) Coordinating policies and actions to combat terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking;

(c) Removing the obstacles to the realization of the right to self-determination to peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development;

(d) Ensuring that the centrality of the human person in development and the priority to be attached to social development are fully reflected in the programmes and activities of regional and international organizations;

(e) Reinforcing the capacity of relevant international organizations to monitor the implementation of fundamental human rights, including the right to development, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination;

(f) Elaborating policies, within the mandates and functions of the various international institutions, that will support the objectives of social development and contribute to institutional development through capacity-building and other forms of cooperation;

(g) Strengthening the capacities of Governments, the private sector and civil society, especially in Africa and the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to enable them to meet their specific and global responsibilities.

II. ERADICATION OF POVERTY

BASIS FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

18. Over 1 billion people in the world today live under unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in developing countries, and particularly in rural areas of low-income Asia, Africa and the least developed countries.

19. Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources; hunger and malnutrition; illiteracy; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It

occurs as mass poverty in many developing countries, pockets of poverty amidst wealth in developed countries, loss of livelihoods as a result of economic recession, sudden poverty as a result of disaster or conflict, the poverty of low-wage workers, and the utter destitution of people who fall outside social institutions and safety nets. Women bear a disproportionate burden of poverty, and children growing up in poverty are often permanently disadvantaged. The elderly, people with disabilities, indigenous people, refugees and internally displaced persons are also particularly vulnerable to poverty.

20. Poverty has its origins in political, legal, economic and social structures and cultural values that create and sustain inequality. Poverty is inseparably linked to lack of control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections. Without those resources, people are easily neglected by policy makers and have limited access to institutions, markets and public services. The eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone, but will require changes in political and economic structures in order to ensure equal access for all to resources, opportunities and public services, to redistribute wealth and income to eliminate existing inequities, to provide social protection for those who cannot support themselves, and to assist people confronted by unforeseen catastrophe, whether individual or collective, natural or social.

21. The eradication of poverty requires universal access to economic opportunities and basic social services as well as special efforts to facilitate access to opportunities and services for the particularly disadvantaged. People living in poverty and vulnerable groups must be empowered through organization and participation in all aspects of political, economic and social life, and in particular in the planning and implementation of policies that affect them.

22. There is therefore an urgent need for:

- National strategies to reduce overall poverty, with specific time-bound commitments to eradicate extreme poverty;

- Regular reviews of economic policies and national budgets to orient them towards eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities;

- Expanded opportunities to enable people living in poverty to enhance their overall capacities and improve their economic condition;

- Provision for the basic needs of all, giving special priority to the needs of women and children;

- Policies ensuring that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, child rearing, disability and old age;

- Stronger international cooperation and international institutions to assist countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and to provide basic social protection.

ACTIONS

A. The formulation of integrated strategies

23. *Governments should give greater focus to public efforts towards the eradication of extreme poverty and the reduction of overall poverty by:*

(a) Identifying the livelihood systems, survival strategies and self-help organizations of people living in poverty and work with these organizations to develop poverty reduction programmes that build on those efforts;

(b) Formulating and implementing specific plans to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action on the local, national and international levels;

(c) Defining, within each national context, time-bound goals and targets for the reduction of all forms of poverty and the eradication of extreme poverty, with reference to household income, food and shelter, and access to productive assets, economic opportunities and basic services;

(d) Establishing policies, objectives and measurable targets to enhance and broaden women's economic opportunities.

24. *Governments should integrate goals and targets for the reduction and eradication of poverty into overall economic and social policy and planning at the local and national levels by:*

(a) Analysing policies and programmes, including those relating to macroeconomic stability, taxation, employment, markets and all the major sectors of the economy, with respect to their impact on poverty and inequality and adjust them as necessary to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, opportunities, income and services;

(b) Redesigning public investment policies relating to infrastructure development and natural resource management to benefit people living in poverty;

(c) Ensuring that development policies are not biased against low-income communities or against rural and agricultural development;

(d) Designing and implementing environmental protection and resource management measures taking into account the needs of people living in poverty and vulnerable groups, in accordance with Agenda 21;

(e) Establishing mechanisms for the coordination of efforts to reduce and eradicate poverty among sectors and different levels of administration.

25. *People living in poverty and their organizations should be empowered by:*

(a) Involving them fully in the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of strategies and programmes for poverty eradication and community development, and ensuring that these programmes reflect their priorities and perceptions;

(b) Ensuring that policies and programmes affecting people living in poverty respect their dignity and culture and make full use of their knowledge, skills and resourcefulness;

(c) Encouraging and assisting people living in poverty to organize so that their representatives can participate in economic and social policy-making and negotiate more effectively with governmental and economic institutions to obtain the services and opportunities they need.

26. *There is a need to monitor and assess poverty, evaluate poverty reduction policies and promote understanding and awareness of poverty and its causes and consequences by:*

(a) Developing and disseminating indicators of poverty and vulnerability, including income, wealth, hunger, malnutrition, health, unemployment, homelessness and other factors, as well as indicators of the causal factors underlying poverty;

(b) Monitoring the achievement of goals and targets; evaluating, quantitatively and qualitatively, changes in poverty levels, persistence of poverty and vulnerability to poverty; and assessing the effectiveness of poverty reduction strategies, based on the priorities and perceptions of households living in poverty and low-income communities;

(c) Mobilizing public awareness, in particular through educational institutions and the media, so that society gives priority to the struggle against poverty while focusing attention on progress or failure to reduce and eradicate poverty and meet poverty reduction goals and targets;

(d) Mobilizing the resources of universities and research institutions to improve an understanding of the causes of poverty and the effectiveness of anti-poverty strategies and programmes, strengthening the capacity for social science research in developing countries and integrating the results of research into decision-making processes;

(e) Facilitating and promoting exchange of knowledge and experience, especially among developing countries.

27. *The international community should support the efforts of countries to reduce and eradicate poverty by:*

(a) Supporting the measures being taken in the developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, to reduce and eradicate poverty, provide remunerative work and meet basic social development goals;

(b) Strengthening the capacities of developing countries to monitor poverty and to assess the impact of national and international policies and programmes on people living in poverty;

(c) Addressing the special needs of small island developing countries with respect to eradicating poverty;

(d) Supporting the countries with economies in transition and societies disrupted by conflict in their efforts to eradicate poverty and rebuild their social protection systems.

B. Improved access to productive resources and infrastructure

28. *The opportunities available for diversification and productivity growth in low-income communities should be enhanced by:*

(a) Improving transportation, communication, power and energy services at the local level;

(b) Promoting rural non-farm production and service activities, including agro-processing, sales and services of agricultural equipment and inputs, irrigation, credit services and other enterprises through supportive laws and administrative measures, credit policies and technical and administrative training;

(c) Increasing and improving financial and technical assistance for community development and self-help programmes and strengthening cooperation between Governments, community organizations, cooperatives, formal and informal banking institutions, private enterprises and international agencies to mobilize local savings, promote the creation of local financial networks, and increase the availability of credit and market information to small entrepreneurs, small farmers and other low-income self-employed workers, with particular efforts to ensure availability of such services to women;

(d) Strengthening organizations of small farmers, community-based cooperatives and other organizations of small producers in order to improve market access, increase productivity, provide inputs and technical advice, promote cooperation in production operations, and participate in the planning and implementation of rural development, including land reform, land improvement and economic diversification.

29. *Opportunities for small farmers and other agricultural, forestry and fishery workers should be promoted by:*

(a) Expanding and improving land ownership through actions such as improving the security of land tenure, developing new agricultural land, redistributing land, ensuring fair land rents, making land transfers more efficient and fair, adjudicating land disputes, improving the wages and conditions of agricultural labour, and increasing the access of small farmers to water, credit, extension services and appropriate technology, including for women on the basis of equality;

(b) Improving access to markets and market information to enable small producers to obtain fair prices for their products and pay fair prices for the materials they need;

(c) Protecting the traditional rights to land and other resources of pastoralists, fishery workers and nomadic and indigenous people and

strengthening land management in areas of pastoral or nomadic activity, building on traditional communal practices, controlling encroachment by others, and developing improved systems of range management and access to water, markets, credit, animal production and health services, education and information;

(d) Promoting research and development on farming systems and small-holder cultivation and animal husbandry techniques, particularly in environmentally fragile areas, building on local and traditional practices of sustainable agriculture and taking particular advantage of women's knowledge, in order to assist small farmers, including women, to increase production, with the full participation of the farmers;

(e) Strengthening agricultural training and extension services to promote more effective use of existing technologies and indigenous knowledge systems and to disseminate new technologies, in order to reach both men and women farmers, including through the hiring of more women as extension workers.

30. *Small producers' access to credit should be substantially improved by:*

(a) Reviewing national legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks that restrict access of people living in poverty to credit on reasonable terms;

(b) Setting realistic time-bound targets for ensuring access to credit;

(c) Providing incentives, earmarking percentages of the lending base and strengthening the capacities of the organized credit system to deliver credit and related services to people living in poverty and vulnerable groups;

(d) Expanding financial networks, building on existing community networks, promoting attractive opportunities for savings and ensuring equitable access to credit at the local level.

31. *Urban poverty should be addressed by:*

(a) Promoting new businesses, cooperative enterprises, expanded market and other employment opportunities;

(b) Promoting investments to improve housing, infrastructure, public transportation and the overall human environment;

(c) Promoting social services, including, where necessary, assistance for people to move to areas offering better employment opportunities, housing, education and other social services;

(d) Ensuring safety through adequate police protection responsive to the needs and concerns of the community.

C. Meeting the basic needs of all

32. *Governments and other social organizations should cooperate to meet the basic needs of all members of society, including people living in poverty and vulnerable groups, by:*

(a) Ensuring universal access to basic social services, with particular efforts to facilitate access by people living in poverty and vulnerable groups;

(b) Ensuring that girls and women have full and equal access to social services, especially education and health care;

(c) Providing special social services to enable vulnerable people and people living in poverty to improve their lives, to participate fully in all social, economic and political activities and to contribute to social and economic development;

(d) Ensuring that people living in poverty have equal access to justice, including through the provision of free legal assistance.

33. *Governments must implement the commitments that have been made to meet the basic needs of all, including, inter alia, the following:*

(a) By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children; closing the gender gap in primary and secondary school education by the year 2005; universal primary education in all countries before the year 2015;

(b) By the year 2000, reduction of mortality rates of infants and children under five years of age by one third of the 1990 level, or 50 to 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever is less; by the year 2015 aim to achieve an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and an under-five mortality rate below 45 per 1,000;

(c) By the year 2000, a reduction in maternal mortality by one half of the 1990 level; by the year 2015, a further reduction by one half;

(d) By the year 2000, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under five years of age by half of the 1990 level;

(e) Making available reproductive health, through the primary health care system, to all individuals of appropriate age as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015;

(f) Reducing the adult illiteracy rate - the appropriate age group to be determined in each country - to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy;

(g) Providing, on a sustainable basis, access to safe water in sufficient quantities and proper sanitation for all;

(h) Improving the availability of affordable housing, in accordance with the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

(i) Monitoring the implementation of those commitments at the highest level and considering the possibility of expediting their implementation.

34. *Access to social services for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups should be improved through:*

(a) Facilitating access to quality education for people living in poverty by improving the quality of schools in low-income communities, by establishing schools in unserved areas, and by providing services, such as meals and health care, as economic incentives for families in poverty to keep children in school;

(b) Expanding and improving non-formal education to improve opportunities for people living in poverty to develop the skills and knowledge needed to better their conditions and livelihoods;

(c) Expanding and improving pre-school education, formal and non-formal, including through radio and television, to overcome some of the disadvantages faced by young children growing up in poverty;

(d) Ensuring that low-income communities have access to health service outlets staffed by health workers who can provide primary care, essential drugs and information and services relating to preventive health care including reproductive health/family planning, nutrition, dental care, safe water, sanitation and environmental protection, free of charge, or at affordable rates with provision for those who are unable to pay;

(e) Promoting cooperation among government agencies, health care workers, women's organizations and other institutions of civil society to develop a comprehensive national strategy for improving maternal and child health care and ensuring that people living in poverty have full access to such services, including reproductive health/family planning care and education on safe motherhood and prenatal and post-natal care;

(f) Encouraging health care workers to work in low-income communities and rural areas and providing outreach services to make health care available to otherwise unserved areas.

D. Enhanced social protection and reduced vulnerability

35. *Social protection systems should be strengthened and expanded in order to protect from poverty people who cannot find work, people who cannot work due to sickness, disability, old age or maternity, families that have lost a breadwinner through death or marital break-up, and people who have lost their livelihoods due to natural disaster or civil violence. Actions to this end should include:*

(a) Strengthening and expanding programmes targeted to those in need, programmes providing universal basic protection, and social insurance

programmes, with the choice of programmes depending on national financial and administrative capacities;

(b) Developing a strategy for a gradual expansion of social protection programmes, progressing from targeted programmes to meet the most urgent needs to universal programmes providing economic and social security for all;

(c) Designing social protection programmes to help people become self-sufficient as fully and quickly as possible, to reintegrate those excluded from economic activity and to prevent social isolation or stigmatization of those needing protection;

(d) Exploring a variety of means for raising revenues to strengthen social protection programmes and promoting efforts by the private sector and voluntary associations to provide social protection;

(e) Expanding and strengthening social insurance programmes to protect working people and their dependants from the risk of falling into poverty, by extending coverage to as large a population of workers as possible and by ensuring that benefits are provided quickly and that entitlements continue when workers change jobs;

(f) Ensuring, through appropriate regulation, that contributory social insurance plans are efficient and transparent so that the contributions of workers, employers and the State and the accumulation of resources can be monitored by the participants;

(g) Ensuring an adequate social safety net for those whose livelihoods are threatened by structural adjustment and economic reform.

36. *Particular efforts should be made to protect children by:*

(a) Promoting family stability and supporting families in providing mutual support;

(b) Improving the situation of children who lack adequate family support, including urban street children, abandoned children, working children, children addicted to narcotic drugs, those affected by war or natural disaster, and those who are economically and sexually exploited or abused, and ensuring that they have access to food, shelter, education and health care, and are protected from abuse and violence;

(c) Developing and strengthening programmes targeted at young people living in poverty in order to enhance their economic, educational, social and cultural opportunities, to promote constructive social relations among them and to provide them with connections outside their communities to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty;

(d) Improving the status of the single parent in society and ensuring that single-parent families receive the social support they need, including support for adequate housing and child care.

37. *People and communities should be protected from temporary and long-term impoverishment resulting from disasters through:*

(a) Developing long-term strategies and contingency plans for famine and disaster warning, assessment, information dissemination, management and relief, with relief activities evolving quickly into rehabilitation and development activities;

(b) Developing emergency food reserves as a means to prevent acute food shortages and stabilize prices, with facilities for food storage, transportation and distribution during emergencies, making full use of traditional and market mechanisms;

(c) In disaster-prone areas and in cooperation with community organizations, developing resource conservation programmes, incorporating traditional disaster-response practices, which can be rapidly expanded into emergency employment and rebuilding programmes in disaster situations;

(d) Acting quickly in disaster situations to provide food, medical supplies and other relief to victims and ensuring that the relief is effectively targeted to those who need it; and channelling and organizing disaster assistance so as to regenerate the local economy and support resource protection and development efforts;

(e) Mobilizing and coordinating international assistance, including assistance from the United Nations system, to support the actions of governments and communities confronting disaster situations;

(f) Developing new mechanisms that integrate governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental efforts in the fight to eradicate world hunger, including the establishment of a volunteer corps of participants provided by Member States, observer States and non-governmental organizations, under United Nations coordination.

III. PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

BASIS FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

38. Productive work is not only a means of economic livelihood, but a defining element of human identity. It gives meaning and dignity to people's lives, structure to social relations and solidarity to the community. High levels of unemployment and underemployment require that the State, the private sector and other actors and institutions at all levels cooperate to create conditions which enable everyone to participate in productive work.

39. While it is in the nature of economic and technical change to modify human activities and employment opportunities, globalization and rapid technological development give rise to growing uncertainties. In addition to requiring the creation of new work opportunities on an unprecedented scale, such an environment calls for expanded efforts to enhance the knowledge and skills necessary for people to work productively and adapt to changing requirements.

40. Growth in employment is currently greatest in small and medium-sized enterprises and in self-employment. In developing countries, informal sector activities often are the leading source of work opportunities for people with limited access to formal sector wage employment and in particular for women. The removal of obstacles to the operation of such enterprises and the provision of support for their creation and expansion must be accompanied by protection of the basic rights, health and safety of workers and the progressive improvement of overall working conditions.

41. While all groups can benefit from more employment opportunities, specific needs call for supplementary measures. Particular efforts by the public and private sectors are required to ensure that gender equality is practised in all spheres of employment policy.

42. Much productive work of great social importance is not remunerated, such as caring for children and the elderly, protecting the environment and providing voluntary assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and groups. Efforts are needed to facilitate the combination of such work with formal economic life through flexible working arrangements, encouraging voluntary social activities as well as broadening the very conception of productive work and employment.

43. There is therefore an urgent need for:

- Placement of employment at the centre of national strategies and policies, with the full participation of employers and trade unions;
- Policies to expand work opportunities and productivity in both rural and urban sectors;
- Education and training which enable workers and entrepreneurs to adapt to changing technologies and economic conditions;
- Quality jobs, with full respect for the basic rights of workers and relevant ILO conventions;
- Special priority, in the design of policies, to the problems of structural and long-term unemployment and to youth unemployment;
- Empowerment of women and gender balance in decision-making processes at all levels to enhance equality and partnership between women and men in sharing family and working life responsibilities;
- Protection of migrant workers by the implementation of all relevant national and international instruments;
- A broader conception of work and greater flexibility in working time arrangements over the course of an individual's lifetime.

ACTIONS

A. The centrality of employment-intensive growth in policy formulation

44. *Placing the creation of productive employment at the centre of development strategies and economic and social policies requires:*

(a) Declaring and pursuing active policies to promote full, productive and freely chosen employment;

(b) Elevating the problems of unemployment and underemployment to the top of national and international policy agendas.

45. *Minimizing the negative impact on jobs of measures for macroeconomic stability requires:*

(a) Coordinating macroeconomic policies so that they are mutually reinforcing and conducive to substantial increases in productive employment and a decline in unemployment world wide;

(b) Giving priority to programmes which most directly promote job growth when budgetary adjustments are required;

(c) Removing structural constraints to economic growth and employment creation as a complement to stabilization policies;

(d) Enabling competing claims on resources to be resolved in a non-inflationary manner through the development and use of sound industrial relations systems;

(e) Monitoring, analysing and reporting on the impact on employment of trade and investment liberalization.

46. *Stimulating employment-intensive growth requires:*

(a) Encouraging labour-intensive investments in economic and social infrastructure that use local resources and create, maintain and rehabilitate community assets in both rural and urban areas;

(b) Giving developing countries the capacity to select specific technologies and ensuring an appropriate ratio of capital to labour in each component;

(c) Providing assistance to developing countries to integrate technology and employment policies with other social objectives, and to establish and strengthen national and local technology institutions;

(d) Promoting mutually supportive improvements in rural farm and non-farm production, including animal husbandry, fisheries and agro-processing industries, aiming to expand and diversify economic activity and employment in the rural sector;

(e) Introducing policies to stimulate investment in areas, particularly in the rural sector, that have been neglected or bypassed;

(f) Encouraging the conservation and management of natural resources, the promotion of alternative livelihoods in fragile ecosystems, and the rehabilitation and regeneration of critically affected and vulnerable land areas and natural resources.

47. *Enhancing opportunities for the creation and growth of private sector enterprises which would generate additional employment requires:*

(a) Removing legal and administrative obstacles to small and medium-sized enterprises, and avoiding or simplifying regulations and procedures that place them at a disadvantage with respect to larger enterprises;

(b) Facilitating access by small and medium-sized enterprises to credit, national and international markets, management training and technological information;

(c) Facilitating arrangements between large and small enterprises such as "sub-contracting" and "foster parent programmes";

(d) Improving opportunities and working conditions for women entrepreneurs, by eliminating discrimination in access to credit, productive resources and social security protection, and increasing family benefits and social support such as child care;

(e) Promoting and supporting the development of cooperative business enterprises, and encouraging them to mobilize local capital, develop innovative lending programmes and promote entrepreneurship;

(f) Assisting informal sectors and local enterprises to become more productive and progressively integrated into formal economy through access to affordable credit, information, wider markets, opportunities to upgrade technical and management skills and improved premises and other physical infrastructure; and by extending labour standards and social protection without destroying the ability of informal sectors to generate employment.

B. Education, training and labour policies

48. *Encouraging people to work productively in today's rapidly changing global environment and for workers to move from low productivity to better quality jobs, requires:*

(a) Establishing well-defined educational priorities and investing more in education and training systems;

(b) Promoting high-quality general education as the foundation for acquiring specialized skills and for renewing, adapting and changing them rapidly;

(c) Ensuring that education and training programmes respond to changes in the economy, provide equitable access to training opportunities, offer incentives for enterprises to provide and for workers to acquire, training on a continuous basis, and stimulate entrepreneurial skills;

(d) Encouraging and supporting through technical assistance programmes, including those of the United Nations system, well-designed and adaptable vocational training and apprenticeship programmes.

49. *Helping workers adapt and enhance their employment possibilities under changing economic conditions requires:*

(a) Introducing, analysing and monitoring active labour policies to stimulate the demand for labour in order to ensure that the burden of indirect labour costs on employers does not constitute a disincentive to hiring workers; identify skill shortages and surpluses; provide orientation and counselling services and active help in job searches; promote occupational choice and mobility; offer advisory services and support to enterprises, particularly small enterprises, for the more effective use and development of their workforce; help young people to develop needed skills and find a first job; and establish institutions and processes which reduce discrimination and improve the employment possibilities of groups that are disadvantaged;

(b) Promoting labour mobility, retraining and maintenance of adequate levels of social protection to facilitate worker redeployment when there is phasing out of production or closure of an enterprise, giving special attention to vulnerable groups, such as young people, older people, disabled workers and migrant workers;

(c) Encouraging cooperation between employers and workers to prepare for the introduction of new technologies and to plan for their employment effects as far in advance as possible, while ensuring adequate protection and adjustment;

(d) Strengthening public and private employment services to assist workers to adapt to changing job markets and provide unemployment insurance, employment and job search counselling, training, placement, apprenticeships and the sharing of information;

(e) Strengthening labour market information systems;

(f) Developing appropriate data and indicators on employment and unemployment and sharing information concerning labour markets, including work situations outside formal markets.

C. Enhanced quality of work and employment

50. *Governments should enhance the quality of work and employment by:*

(a) Observing and fully implementing the human rights obligations and standards that they have ratified in the field of human rights;

(b) Safeguarding the basic rights and interests of workers in such areas as the abolition of forced labour and child labour, freedom of association, the right to organize and to bargain collectively, equal remuneration, and the elimination of discrimination in employment;

(c) Ratifying and enforcing ILO conventions relating to women's equal employment rights and to the rights of indigenous people;

(d) Using existing international labour standards to guide the formulation and enforcement of national labour legislation and policies.

51. *To achieve a healthy and safe working environment, remove exploitation, raise productivity, and enhance the quality of life requires:*

(a) Introducing health policies that reduce environmental health hazards and provide for occupational health and safety, in conformity with the relevant conventions; providing informal sector enterprises and workers with information and guidance on how to reduce occupational safety and health risks;

(b) Promoting sound industrial relations based on tripartite cooperation, freedom of association and the right to bargain collectively;

(c) Setting specific target dates for eliminating the most exploitative and damaging forms of child labour and contributing to its abolition by ensuring the full enforcement of relevant employment laws, the protection of working children, and, in particular, street children, through the provision of appropriate health, education and other social services;

(d) Designing labour policies and programmes to help reduce family poverty, gradually replacing child labour with adult labour, and encouraging parents to send their children to school through, inter alia, the provision of social services and financial incentives.

D. Enhanced employment opportunities for groups with special needs

52. *The design of policies and programmes can be improved by:*

(a) Reflecting the specific needs of each group, and ensuring that programmes are equitable, efficient and culturally appropriate;

(b) Actively involving representatives of these groups in planning, design and management; and monitoring, evaluating and reorienting these programmes to ensure that they reach their intended beneficiaries.

53. *Employment policies can better address the problem of long-term unemployment by:*

(a) Incorporating a comprehensive set of measures, including re-education and training programmes, counselling and job-search assistance and temporary work schemes;

(b) Promoting social security schemes to enable the long-term unemployed to maintain their standard of living and participate actively in society.

54. *Policies should seek to guarantee all young people constructive options for their future by:*

(a) Providing good quality education at the primary and secondary levels, with literacy and numeracy for all as a priority;

(b) Encouraging various actors to join forces in designing and carrying out comprehensive and coordinated programmes that stimulate the resourcefulness of young people, preparing them for durable employment or self-employment, and providing them with guidance, vocational and technical training, social skills, work experience and education in social values.

55. *The full participation of women in the labour market and their equal access to employment opportunities can be ensured by:*

(a) Establishing the principle of equality of opportunity between men and women as a basis for employment policy;

(b) Eliminating gender discrimination in hiring, wages, benefits, promotion, training, job security and social security benefits;

(c) Improving women's access to technologies that facilitate their work, generate incomes, transform their gender-prescribed roles within the productive process, and enable them to move out of stereotyped, low-paying jobs;

(d) Changing attitudes on the division of labour based on gender, and providing institutional support such as parental leave, the right to parental part-time employment, flexible working hours, and child care facilities which enable working parents to reconcile work with family responsibilities, paying particular attention to the needs of single-parent households;

(e) Encouraging men to take an active part in all areas of family and household responsibilities, including the sharing of child-rearing and housework.

56. *Broadening the range of employment opportunities for disabled persons requires:*

(a) Ensuring that laws and regulations do not discriminate against disabled persons;

(b) Taking proactive measures such as organizing support services, devising incentive schemes and supporting self-help schemes and small businesses;

(c) Making appropriate adjustments in the workplace to accommodate disabled persons;

(d) Developing alternative forms of employment, such as sheltered workshops, to meet the needs of disabled persons who cannot work in other settings.

57. *There is need for greatly intensified international cooperation to provide for the needs of migrant workers and their families; Governments can meet this need by:*

(a) Ratifying existing instruments pertaining to migrant workers and strive to implement their provisions;

(b) Taking appropriate steps, in countries receiving migrant workers, to safeguard the wages and working conditions of migrant workers, by extending to documented migrants who meet appropriate length-of-stay requirements and to members of their families, treatment equal to that accorded their own nationals regarding basic human rights, including equality of opportunity and working conditions, social security, participation in trade unions and access to health, education, cultural and other social services; and by facilitating return migration through policies enabling the transfer of pensions and other work benefits;

(c) Facilitating the return of migrants and their reintegration into their home communities, and devise ways to use their knowledge and technical skills.

E. A broader conception of work and employment

58. *The development and implementation of a broader conception of work and employment requires:*

(a) Expanding and improving arrangements for voluntary part-time work, work-sharing and other flexible working time arrangements, while maintaining appropriate social protection;

(b) Encouraging a dialogue on the possibilities and institutional requirements for a broader conception of work and employment;

(c) Examining social security legislation and taxation systems to ascertain how to facilitate flexibility in the way people divide their time between education and training, paid employment, volunteer activity and other socially useful forms of work, family responsibilities, leisure and retirement;

(d) Creating institutional and policy mechanisms to encourage socially useful volunteer work and allocating more resources to support such work;

(e) Intensifying international exchange of experience on various aspects of change in the conception of work and employment and on new forms of flexible working time arrangements over the lifetime.

IV. SOCIAL INTEGRATION

BASIS FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

59. Societies comprise different groups that are defined by language, ethnicity, religion, geography or class, or are bound by ties of wealth or economic interest. To maintain harmony among them has been often a difficult and sometimes a precarious task. The period since the founding of the United Nations shows a mixed record in the quest for stable, safe and just societies.

60. There have been important gains: decolonization; wider recognition of the need to respect human dignity and the unacceptability of discrimination; an expanded notion of collective responsibility for all members of a society; expanded economic and educational opportunities and greater access to information; and greater possibility for social mobility, choice and autonomy of action.

61. These gains must be set against negative developments that include social polarization and fragmentation, widening disparities of income and wealth within and among nations; marginalization of people and entire countries; the strains on individuals, families, communities and institutions brought about by the rapid pace of change, economic transformation, migration and major dislocations of population.

62. Violence, in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, especially against women, is perceived as a growing threat to the security of both individuals and communities everywhere, while total social breakdown is an all-too-real contemporary experience. Organized crime, drug trafficking, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, politically motivated killing and even genocide present fundamental threats to societies and the global social order. These are compelling and urgent reasons for action by governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity.

63. The main aim of social integration must be to enable different groups in society to live together in productive and cooperative diversity, not to eliminate differences. The basis of a "society for all" should be full respect for diversity and accommodation of differences within a framework of common interests for the benefit of all. Social integration, moreover, must be pursued with full respect for human dignity and universal human rights and freedoms and avoid all forms of coercion. The pattern of development should be consistent with justice for the individual and harmony among social groups and countries.

64. There is therefore an urgent need for:

- Transparent and accountable public institutions accessible to people on an equal basis and responsive to their needs;
- Opportunities for all to participate in all spheres of public life;
- Promotion of non-discrimination, tolerance and respect for diversity;
- Equality of opportunity and social mobility;
- Special measures to meet the needs and interests of those who face obstacles in participating fully in society;
- Recognizing and addressing the dangers to society from violence, crime, drug abuse and trafficking.

ACTIONS

A. Responsive government and full participation in society

65. *Governments should make public institutions more responsive to people's needs by:*

(a) Ensuring that decisions are taken as close as possible to those who will be affected and with their participation, keeping under review, within each country's constitutional framework, the responsibilities of the different levels of government, and the administrative arrangements for organizing and delivering services;

(b) Keeping under review the revenue raising and spending powers of regions, localities and municipalities to make best use of resources while promoting local initiatives that maintain community cohesion;

(c) Simplifying administrative regulations, disseminating information about public policy issues and initiatives that is "user friendly" and facilitating maximum access to information;

(d) Opening channels between citizens and government agencies and developing recourse procedures accessible to ordinary people for redress of grievances.

66. *Encouraging the fullest participation in society requires:*

(a) Strengthening the capacities and opportunities for all people, especially those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable, to establish and maintain organizations representing their interests;

(b) Establishing mechanisms to enable institutions of civil society to participate in the formulation of goals for public action and in the design and implementation of policies that will direct the resources of individuals and groups towards social development;

(c) Giving community organizations greater control over resource allocation, greater responsibility for resource mobilization and a greater involvement in the design and implementation of local projects, particularly education, health care, resource management and social protection;

(d) Ensuring a legal framework and a support structure that encourages the formation of community organizations and voluntary associations of individuals for political, social or economic purposes.

B. Non-discrimination, tolerance and respect for diversity

67. *Reducing and eliminating discrimination and promoting tolerance and respect for diversity requires:*

(a) Enacting legislation, as appropriate, against all forms of discrimination in the public domain;

(b) Encouraging the ratification, removal of reservations and implementation of all provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relative instruments and implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

(c) Setting an example by changing legislation, public codes and practices that may imply a continuation of discriminatory practices;

(d) Disseminating information about people's rights under the law and means available to redress complaints;

(e) Strengthening or establishing machinery for resolving disputes and conflicts related to discriminatory practices, developing arbitration and conciliation procedures at local and national levels;

(f) Using the example of the practice of State institutions and the educational system to promote tolerance, respect for diversity and democratic values with civic responsibility; ensuring that those institutions balance promotion of the structures and values on which a country has been built and the protection of political pluralism, the diversity of heritage and cultures, and religious tolerance;

(g) Recognizing that the languages currently spoken in the world should be protected, and taking steps towards the elaboration of a convention on the preservation of linguistic diversity;

(h) Encouraging the communication media to raise peoples' understanding and awareness of all aspects of social integration;

(i) Taking effective measures to eliminate all kinds of exploitation, abuse and violence against women and children with particular attention to situations of armed conflict.

C. Equality of opportunity and social justice

68. *Governments may promote equality of opportunity and social justice by:*

(a) Carrying out regular review of public policy and public spending from a social equity perspective and their positive contribution to equalizing opportunities;

(b) Expanding basic services with the aim of ensuring universal coverage;

(c) Providing equal opportunities in public sector employment and providing guidance, information and, as appropriate, incentives to private employers to do the same;

(d) Encouraging the formation of cooperatives, community and other grass-roots organizations, mutual support groups and similar institutions that tend to strengthen social integration, paying particular attention to policies that assist families in their support and nurturing roles;

(e) In expanding basic education, developing special measures to provide schooling to children living in sparsely populated and remote areas, for children of nomadic, pastoral, migrant or indigenous parents, and for street children, children working or looking after younger siblings and disabled or aged parents, and disabled children;

(f) Ensuring that expansion of basic education is accompanied by improved quality, appropriate attention to children of different abilities and a close link between the school curriculum and the needs of the workplace;

(g) Evaluating on a regular basis school systems by results achieved and disseminating research findings regarding the appropriateness of different methods of evaluation;

(h) Making use of all forms of non-formal, non-conventional and experimental means of education through the institutions of civil society and the private sector to provide educational opportunities for those who in childhood missed formal schooling and those who wish to continue education and upgrade skills throughout their lives.

D. Responses to special social needs

69. *Governmental responses to special needs of social groups should include:*

(a) Identifying specific means to encourage social institutions to adapt to the special needs of marginalized, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;

(b) Recognizing and promoting the abilities, talents and experience of those groups that have often been viewed as marginalized or disadvantaged and identifying ways to prevent isolation and alienation and enabling them to make a positive contribution to society;

(c) Supporting by legislation, incentives and other means organizations of the marginalized, disadvantaged or vulnerable so that they may promote the interests of the groups concerned and become involved in local and national, economic, social and political decision-making that guides society as a whole;

(d) Promoting representation of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in legislatures, governments, judiciaries and other positions of public authority or influence;

(e) Empowering indigenous people to enable them to make choices which allow them to retain their cultural identity while participating in national, economic and social life;

(f) Implementing the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children in 1990 and ratifying, as appropriate, and implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(g) Taking measures to encourage young people to participate in discussions and decisions affecting them and to facilitating such participation in all relevant public institutions;

(h) Adopting specific measures to equip young people for responsible adulthood, particularly out of school youth and street children;

(i) Disseminating the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and developing, in consultation with organizations of disabled persons and the private sector, strategies for implementing the Rules; policies concerning people with disabilities should focus on their abilities rather than their disabilities, on the equalization of opportunities and on ensuring their full participation in society, as well as on their dignity as citizens, rather than as objects of welfare;

(j) Within the context of the United Nations Principles for Older Persons and the Global Targets on Ageing for the Year 2001 reviewing or developing strategies for implementing the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing so that older persons can maximize their contribution to society and play their full part in the community.

E. Equitable treatment and integration of migrants, migrant workers, refugees and displaced persons

70. *Promotion of the equitable treatment and integration of all groups requires:*

(a) Cooperation in reducing the causes of undocumented migration, safeguarding the basic human rights of undocumented migrants including the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution, and preventing their exploitation;

(b) Ensuring that migrants receive fair and equal treatment, including full protection of the laws of the host society, access to economic opportunities and social services, protection from violence and exploitation;

(c) Recognizing the vital importance of family reunification and, consistent with article 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, promoting its integration into national legislation, particularly those of receiving countries, to ensure the protection of families of documented migrants;

(d) Providing special services such as health care, language training, cultural education and conflict prevention, management and resolution;

(e) Promoting the integration of the children of long-term migrants by providing them with educational and training opportunities equal to those of nationals, allowing them to exercise an economic activity, and facilitating the naturalization of those who have been raised in the receiving country;

(f) Implementing policies that address the root causes of movements of refugees and displaced persons;

(g) Strengthening support for international protection and assistance activities on behalf of refugees and, as appropriate, displaced persons and promoting the search for durable mechanisms that promote shared responsibility for the protection and assistance needs of refugees;

(h) Creating conditions that allow for the voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and dignity.

F. Violence, crime and drug abuse

71. *Addressing the problems created by violence, crime and drug abuse requires:*

(a) Introducing specific policies to prevent and eliminate violence in society, with particular attention to violence against women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly; and respecting fully the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(b) Improving mechanisms for resolving conflicts peacefully and reintegrating society following conflicts, including efforts towards reconciliation and confidence-building between the conflicting groups, reconstruction of social institutions that have been destroyed, reintegration of displaced and disabled persons and re-establishment of the rule of law and respect for human rights;

(c) Cooperation with non-governmental organizations and community organizations, to make adequate provision for the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of offenders, especially young offenders; measures will include efforts to keep offenders within the community, to maintain links

with their families during detention, and to reintegrate them into productive employment and social life after their release from detention;

(d) Combating drug use and drug trafficking and related criminal activities through national and internationally coordinated measures, while strengthening, in cooperation with the institutions of civil society and the private sector rehabilitation and education programmes for former drug addicts to enable them to obtain productive employment and achieve the independence, dignity and responsibility for a drug-free, crime-free, productive life.

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

72. Nothing short of a renewed and massive political will to invest in people and their well-being will achieve the objectives of social development. Social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Summit are primarily the responsibility of national Governments, although international cooperation will be required for their full implementation. At all levels of implementation, the crucial requirement is

- Integration of goals, programmes and review mechanisms which have developed separately in response to specific problems;
- Partnership involving government, civil society, private business, trade unions, academic and research institutions, the media, families and individuals;
- Empowerment so that those who are to be assisted are fully involved in setting goals, designing programmes, implementing activities and monitoring performance;
- Solidarity, extending the concept of partnership and a moral imperative of mutual respect and concern among individuals, communities and nations.

ACTIONS

A. National strategies

73. *The promotion of an integrated approach to the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level will require:*

(a) Analysing and reviewing macroeconomic and sectoral policies and their impact on poverty, employment, social integration and social development;

(b) Assessing the extent, distribution and characteristics of poverty, unemployment and social conflict, and of the political, legal, economic, social and cultural structures and values that create and maintain these within each national context;

(c) Formulating national strategies for social development, including government action, actions that the country can take in cooperation with other

Governments and international organizations and actions taken in partnership and alliance with actors of civil society and the private sector, with specific responsibilities to be undertaken by each actor, and with agreed priorities and time-frames;

(d) Integrating social development goals into national development plans, policies and budgets, cutting across traditional sectoral boundaries, with maximum transparency and accountability, and formulated and implemented with the participation of the groups directly affected;

(e) Defining time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating extreme poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment, and enhancing social integration, within each national context;

(f) Promoting institutional capacity for interministerial coordination, intersectoral collaboration, coordinated allocation of resources and vertical integration from national capitals to local districts;

(g) Developing quantitative and qualitative social indicators to assess poverty, employment, social integration and other social factors, to monitor the impact of social policies and programmes, and to find ways to improve the effectiveness of policies and programmes and introduce new programmes;

(h) Strengthening implementation and monitoring mechanisms, including arrangements for the participation of civil society in policy-making and implementation, and collaboration with international organizations.

74. *International support for the formulation of national strategies for social development will require actions by bilateral and multilateral agencies for:*

(a) Assisting countries to strengthen their capacities for formulating, coordinating, implementing and monitoring integrated strategies for social development;

(b) Coordinating the assistance provided by different agencies for similar planning processes under other international action plans;

(c) Developing improved concepts and programmes of collection and dissemination of social statistics and indicators to facilitate monitoring and policy analysis and to provide guidance and support to countries in this regard when requested.

B. Involvement of civil society

75. *Effective implementation of the Programme of Action requires strengthening community organizations and non-profit non-governmental organizations who work in the sphere of education, health, poverty alleviation, social integration, relief and rehabilitation, etc. enabling them to participate actively in policy making. This will require:*

(a) Encouraging and supporting the creation and development of such organizations, particularly for disadvantaged and vulnerable people;

(b) Establishing legislative and regulatory frameworks, institutional arrangements and consultative mechanisms for involving these organizations in the design, implementation and evaluation of social development strategies and specific programmes;

(c) Supporting capacity-building programmes for these organizations in critical areas such as participatory planning, programme design, implementation and evaluation, economic and financial analysis, credit management, research, information and advocacy;

(d) Earmarking resources through such measures as small grant programmes for initiatives taken and managed at the community level;

(e) Strengthening networking and exchange of expertise and experience among these organizations.

76. *The contribution of civil society and the private sector to social development can be enhanced by:*

(a) Developing planning and policy-making procedures that facilitate joint ventures between Governments and civil society in social development;

(b) Encouraging business enterprises to pursue investment and other policies, including non-commercial activities, which will contribute to social development, especially in relation to the generation of work opportunities, access to productive resources and construction of infrastructure;

(c) Enabling and encouraging trade unions to participate in the implementation of social development programmes, especially in relation to the generation of work opportunities under fair conditions, the provision of training, health care and other basic services, and development of an economic environment which facilitates sustainable economic development;

(d) Encouraging cooperatives to reach out to small producers and consumers, particularly those in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups;

(e) Supporting academic and research institutions in their contribution to social development programmes, especially through collecting, analysing and disseminating information and ideas about economic and social development;

(f) Encouraging educational institutions, the media and other sources of public information and opinion to give special prominence to the challenges of social development and to facilitate widespread and well-informed debate about social policies throughout the community.

C. Mobilization of financial resources

77. *The implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level will require a reorientation of existing resources and substantial new resources, both in the public and the private sector. The actions required to direct the flow of private resources and credit to serve the goals of social development have been described earlier. Augmenting the availability of public resources for social development will require at the national level:*

(a) Implementing macroeconomic and structural policies aimed at mobilizing greater domestic savings and investment required for public spending, through progressive, fair and efficient taxes and through cutting back on subsidies that benefit mainly the richer strata;

(b) Reducing military and arms expenditures as much as possible consistent with security in order to increase resources for social and economic development;

(c) Giving high priority to social development in the allocation of public spending and ensuring predictable funding for the relevant programmes;

(d) Ensuring that the resources for social development are available at the level of administration which is responsible for formulating and implementing the relevant programmes;

(e) Increasing the effectiveness of public resources by improving efficiency, reducing waste and corruption, and concentrating on the areas of greatest social need;

(f) Developing innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for social programmes and creating a supportive environment for the mobilization of resources by civil society, including beneficiary contributions and individual voluntary contributions, for social development.

78. *Implementation of the Programme of Action in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, will require increased financial assistance from the international community. This will require:*

(a) Translating the commitments of the Summit into financial implications for social development programmes in developing countries, particularly Africa and the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

(b) Reaffirmation of the commitment by developed countries to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance as soon as possible, with a larger share for social development programmes;

(c) Increasing the share of official development assistance (ODA) devoted to priority basic social services for human development to at least 20 per cent, with recipient countries devoting an increased proportion of their national budgets to such programmes;

(d) Giving high priority in ODA to the eradication of poverty in developing countries, in particular Africa and the least developed countries;

(e) Providing future assistance for social sector activities in the form of grants or soft loans.

79. *Substantial debt reduction is needed to enable developing countries to implement the Programme of Action. Building on the progress made at the July 1994 meeting of the seven major industrialized countries in Naples and the October 1994 meeting of the Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund further progress can be made by:*

(a) Ensuring urgent implementation of existing debt-relief agreements and negotiating further initiatives and innovative measures to reduce and ultimately eliminate the bilateral debts of severely indebted countries at an early date;

(b) Adopting measures to eliminate the bilateral debts of Africa and the least developing countries not later than 1996;

(c) Giving serious consideration to a permanent solution to the growing problem of multilateral debt;

(d) Investigating the possibilities of debt-swaps for social development, with the resources released by debt cancellation or reduction invested in social development programmes;

(e) Increasing the resources of the IDA Debt Reduction Facility in order to help eligible developing countries to reduce their commercial debt; considering alternative mechanisms to complement that facility; and allowing application of its principles to other developing countries.

80. *In order to ensure that structural adjustment programmes promote social development goals, including the eradication of poverty, the generation of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration, Governments in cooperation with the international financial institutions and other international organizations, should:*

(a) Protect basic social programmes and expenditures, in particular, those affecting the weakest and most vulnerable segments of society, from across-the-board budget reductions;

(b) Review, on a country-by-country basis, the impact of structural adjustment programmes on social development, by means of social-impact assessments and other relevant methods, and develop policies to reduce their negative effects and improve their positive impact.

81. *International financial institutions should contribute to the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action. To this end:*

(a) The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the regional development banks and funds and all other international finance organizations should further integrate social development goals in their policies, programmes and operations, in particular by giving higher priority to social sector lending in their lending programmes;

(b) The Bretton Woods institutions and other organizations of the United Nations system should work together with concerned countries to improve policy dialogues and develop new initiatives to ensure that structural adjustment programmes promote sustained economic and social development, with particular attention to their impact on people living in poverty and vulnerable groups;

(c) The United Nations should, in cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral development institutions, study the impact of structural adjustment programmes on economic and social development and assist adjusting countries in creating conditions for economic growth, job creation, poverty eradication and social development.

82. In addition to augmenting the flow of resources through established channels the Economic and Social Council should be requested to consider new and innovative ideas for generating funds for social development including the possibility of raising finance through international taxation of certain types of international activities such as financial transactions, air travel and telecommunications.

D. The role of the United Nations system

83. A framework for international cooperation must be developed in order to ensure the integrated and comprehensive implementation, follow-up and assessment of the outcome of the Summit together with the results of other recent and planned United Nations conferences related to social development, in particular the World Summit for Children, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. On the international level, as on the national, the financial and organizational implications of the commitments, goals and targets should be assessed, priorities established and budgets and work programmes planned.

84. *With regard to the consideration of social development at the intergovernmental level, the United Nations General Assembly should give special consideration to:*

(a) Strengthening the structures, procedures and resources of the Economic and Social Council and bringing specialized agencies into a closer working relationship with the Council so that it could review progress made towards fulfilling the agreements of the Summit and serve as an international development assistance committee to provide guidance to United Nations funds and programmes on major policy matters;

(b) Requesting the Economic and Social Council to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including consideration of a strengthening of the Commission by increasing its membership and by promoting the participation of independent experts in its work;

(c) Promoting implementation of the outcomes at the regional and subregional level, by asking the regional commissions of the United Nations, in cooperation with the regional development banks and other appropriate organizations, to convene a biennial meeting at ministerial level to evaluate progress made towards fulfilling the agreements of the Summit, exchange views on their respective experiences, adopting appropriate measures and reporting to the Economic and Social Council;

(d) Identifying the role of other United Nations intergovernmental forums, including the International Labour Organization, which because of its tripartite structure and expertise has a special role to play in the field of employment;

(e) Convening meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on critical social issues and on policies for addressing them through international cooperation;

(f) Improving the capacity of the United Nations to respond and prevent emerging economic and social crises and provide policy guidelines for coordinated crises response.

85. *The implementation of the Programme of Action will involve many entities in the system. In order to ensure coherence in this effort the General Assembly should give consideration to:*

(a) Promoting and strengthening the coordination of United Nations system activities, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization at the global, regional and national levels in the area of economic and social development programmes, including through reports and meetings coordinated through the Economic and Social Council;

(b) Requesting the Administrative Committee on Coordination to consider how the participating entities might best coordinate their activities and to study new formulas for financing the system's activities for social development, including review of proposals for introducing international taxes;

(c) Requesting the Commission for Social Development, through the Economic and Social Council, to prepare recommendations on the coordination of activities for the follow-up of the Social Summit and on the role of the Commission;

(d) Developing capacities at all levels of the United Nations system for the implementation of economic and social development policies and programmes, including through high-level councils of advisers;

(e) Strengthening the United Nations system's capacity for gathering and analysing information and developing indicators of social development.

86. *The United Nations system should provide technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries, in particular Africa and the least developed countries, in implementing the Programme of Action. To this end:*

(a) The United Nations system, including the technical and sectoral agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, should expand and improve their cooperation in the field of social development to ensure that their efforts are complementary and where possible combining resources in joint initiatives for social development built around common objectives like poverty eradication, empowerment of women, promotion of small and medium enterprises and institution-building;

(b) The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other concerned United Nations organizations, should strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies to assist national governments in designing and implementing social development programmes;

(c) The United Nations Development Programme should organize United Nations system efforts towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels and support the coordinated implementation of social development programmes through its network of field offices;

(d) Coordination at the country level should be improved through a strengthened resident coordinator system and the vigorous implementation of agreed measures such as the programme approach, the harmonization of programming cycles and common premises; policy planning exercises at the country level, like country strategy notes and policy framework papers, should be better coordinated and should take full account of this Programme of Action and related international agreements;

(e) The World Trade Organization should consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system;

(f) The United Nations system should encourage and assist South-South cooperation and technical cooperation among developing countries, at all levels, as an important instrument for social development and the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(g) United Nations development efforts should be supported by adequate financial resources, since reliance on voluntary contributions alone is no longer feasible, and since predictability in funding is essential.

E. Periodic assessment of social conditions and social progress in the world

87. *A periodic assessment of social conditions and social progress in the world requires the following actions:*

(a) The General Assembly should include the follow-up to the Summit, as an item entitled "Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development", on its agenda every two years; in 1996, it should review the effectiveness of the steps taken to implement the outcome of the Summit with regard to poverty eradication as part of the activities relating to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

(b) The Economic and Social Council should be invited to review the reporting system in the area of social development with a view to establishing a coherent system that would result in a "United Nations report on social development" with clear policy recommendations for Governments and international actors;

(c) A second world summit on social development should be scheduled for the year 2005 to review progress in the implementation of the Summit's recommendations and to agree on further initiatives.